

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4055
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PEPR, FI, SW
SUBJ: KEKKONEN INTERVIEW WITH SWEDISH JOURNALIST

REF: STOCKHOLM 1902

1. FINLAND'S PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN FOLLOWED HIS MAY 8 SPEECH AT STOCKHOLM'S FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE BY GRANTING AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO SVENSKA DAGBLADET'S INGEMAR LINDMARKER. THIS REPRESENTS THE FIRST INTERVIEW GRANTED A SWEDISH JOURNALIST BY KEKKONEN SINCE SOMETIME IN THE 60S.

2. KEKKONEN TOLD LINDMARKER THAT HIS STOCKHOLM PROPOSAL FOR NORDIC CONSULTATIONS ON A NORDIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (NNWFZ) IS ONLY A BEGINNING. HE INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP ON HIS PROPOSAL IN A YET UNDETERMINED MANNER.

3. THE BALTIC SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED TO ANY "CRUCIAL DEGREE", KEKKONEN SAID. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE STATIONING OF SIX SOVIET
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NUCLEAR SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC IS OF "IMMEDIATE SIGNIFICANCE" TO HIS NNWFZ PROPOSAL WHICH HE WOULD APPLY ONLY WITHIN THE PRESENT BORDERS OF THE FOURS NORDIC COUNTRIES. THE APPLICABILITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO ADJOINING LAND AND AND SEA AREAS (WHICH SWEDISH OFFICIALS BELIEVE IS ESSENTIAL IF THE KEKKONEN PLAN IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY) WOULD REQUIRE THE COOPERATION OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS. WHEN THE NORDICS THEMSELVES AGREE ON A NNWFZ,

THE NUCLEAR POWERS, WHO SHOULD BE CONSULTED AT EVERY STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, COULD THEN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CONCURRENT GUARANTEES.

4. COMMENT: GOS, HAVING ISSUED A STATEMENT AFTER THE STOCKHOLM SPEECH, HAS NOT OFFICIALLY REACTED TO KEKKONEN INTERVIEW. MFA SOURCES BELIEVE THAT GOS REACTED MORE POLITELY TO KEKKONEN SPEECH THAN DID OTHER NORDICS, BUT CONTINUE TO VIEW NNWFZ PLAN AS A NON-STARTER AND A KEKKONEN TACTIC DESIGNED TO INCREASE FINLAND'S ROOM TO MANEUVER IN FOREIGN POLICY AREA.

5. EMBASSY IS POUCHING UNOFFICIAL FULL TRANSLATION OF KEKKONEN INTERVIEW TO DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEE POSTS.
PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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